

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2414

AN ACT

To require agencies with working dog programs to implement the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office relating to the health and welfare of working dogs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Working Dog Health
3 and Welfare Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKING DOG REC-**
5 **COMMENDATIONS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
8 meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5,
9 United States Code.

10 (2) WORKING DOG.—The term “working dog”
11 means a dog that has received specialized training in
12 order to perform a particular productive function.

13 (3) WORKING DOG PROGRAM.—The term
14 “working dog program” means a program, the oper-
15 ations of which include the employment of working
16 dogs.

17 (4) WORKING DOG RECOMMENDATIONS.—The
18 term “working dog recommendations” means the
19 recommendations included in the report of the Gov-
20 ernment Accountability Office entitled “Working
21 Dogs: Federal Agencies Need to Better Address
22 Health and Welfare”, as published in October 2022.

23 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of

1 each agency that manages a working dog program
2 shall implement the working dog recommendations.

3 (2) CONTRACTORS.—Not later than 180 days
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, a contractor
5 that manages a working dog program on behalf of
6 an agency shall implement the working dog rec-
7 ommendations.

8 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the
9 date on which the head of an agency or a contractor
10 that manages a working dog program on behalf of
11 an agency implements the working dog recommenda-
12 tions under this subsection, the head of the agency
13 shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Secu-
14 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the
15 Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the
16 House of Representatives a report on the explicit
17 steps the agency or contractor has taken to complete
18 the implementation.

19 (c) FOREIGN PARTNERS.—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
21 State shall take appropriate steps to ensure that donations
22 of working dogs provided to foreign partners by the De-
23 partment of State are executed and monitored according
24 to the working dog recommendations.

1 (d) NEW WORKING DOG PROGRAMS.—With respect
2 to an agency that establishes a working dog program, or
3 enters into a contract for the establishment of a working
4 dog program, after the date of enactment of this Act, the
5 head of the agency shall ensure that the working dog pro-
6 gram implements the working dog recommendations.

7 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds
8 are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of car-
9 rying out this Act.

Passed the Senate January 11, 2024.

Attest:

Secretary.

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